

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the following description of figures in the "Brief Description of the Drawing" section with the following amended descriptions:

FIG. 5 is a side cross-sectional view showing how the locking mechanism fits inside of the device in a locked position; and

FIG. 6 is a top cross-sectional view showing how the locking mechanism fits inside of the device in a closed position; and.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view showing the locking mechanism combined with the frame of a bicycle.

Please replace the first paragraph of the "Description of the Preferred Embodiment of the Invention" with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to the several figures of the drawings wherein like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views, FIGS. 1 and 2 show the locking quick release device in the closed (locked) and open (unlocked) positions, respectively. The present invention is a locking quick release device for allowing quick and easy release and adjustment of a removable component such as a bicycle seat assembly 40 or bicycle wheels, while still allowing the removable component to lock to a fixed component such as the bicycle frame 42 to deter theft. In the open position, the

locking quick release device operates similarly to quick release devices known in the industry. First and second members 13a, 13b (hereinafter referred to as The bifurcated ends 13a, 13b) of the collar 14 include an axially aligned bore that receives a threaded member such as a bolt 12. Bifurcated end 13a (distal end) is combined with the bolt 12 as described below. A lever 10 is pivotally mounted on a pin 11 that extends transversely through the bolt 12. The lever 10 comprises a handle portion end 10a and a pivot portion end 10b. In the preferred embodiment, as shown in FIG. 3, the lever handle portion end 10a comprises either a lip on its top and bottom portion, or a thin extension 24 along the length of the lever 10 beyond the locking mechanism. This lip or thin extension 24 aids the user in gripping and applying leverage to the lever 10 when it is moved to the open or closed position. The lever 10 provides a cam surface that engages the wear plate 17 as the lever 10 is moved to a closed position. The wear plate 17 functions as a washer. It protects bifurcated end 13b from the pressure applied by the lever 10. The wear plate 17 also fills space so that the cam surface of the lever 10 does not have to travel as far to apply pressure to the bifurcated end 13b as the lever 10 is being closed. The cam surface on the pivot portion end 10b of the lever 10 is generally of an oblong shape. As the lever 10 is moved to the open position, the bifurcated ends 13a, 13b become more spaced apart because the cam surface of the lever 10 disengages the wear plate 17 so that the bolt 12 does not pull the bifurcated ends 13a, 13b together as tightly. The distal bifurcated end 13a is actually pushed away from its counterpart 13b as the lever 10 is opened because of the contact bifurcated end 13a has

with the bolt 12. This allows the collar 14 to loosen and the seat post to be able to move within the collar 14.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8 of the Application with the following amended paragraph:

In an alternative embodiment there is no thumb screw 22, rather the bolt 12 is threaded directly into bifurcated end 13a. In this embodiment, the lever 10 is pivotally mounted onto pin 11 which is combined with the bolt 12. As the lever 10 pivots around the bolt's 12 axis, the bifurcated end 13a is moved relative to its counterpart 13 b. This has the same effect of changing the diameter of the collar 14 as in the thumb screw 22 embodiment, however in order to lock the quick release device in this embodiment, the proper collar 14 diameter must be achieved when the lever 10 is parallel with the receiving member 15 (hereinafter referred to as nose 15) so that the locking mechanism 20 can be inserted into the nose 15 properly.